current sugar season 1988-89 (October '88-September, '89) is estimated to be about 87.0 lakh tonnes as against the production of 91.10 lakh tonnes and the consumption of 93.33 lakh tonnes, during the previous season. In view of this, export of sugar has been restricted to preferential Quota (USA 8424 tonnes, EEC 10,000 tonnes) and export of 15,000 tonnes to Nepal. Further export of sugar, if any, would depend upon availability of sugar after meeting internal requirements.

**Legislation to streamline local bodies**

1232. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce legislation to streamline the working of local bodies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be brought forward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is actively considering such a legislation and the details are being worked out.

**Central assistance to protect Dibrugarh from soil erosion**

1233. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether any amount has been provided by the Central Government towards protection measures to save Dibrugarh town of Assam from soil erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): No Central assistance is being provided to State Government of Assam under the Central Soil Conservation Sector for protection measures to save Dibrugarh town from Soil erosion.

**Desert development programme in Madhya Pradesh**

1234. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

SHRI CHANDAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain areas of Madhya Pradesh especially those adjacent to Rajasthan are turning into deserts;

(b) whether any amount has been allocated and utilised under the Desert Development Programme in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir. Several studies and investigations taken up by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) have revealed that desert is not expanding.

(b) and (c) No area of Madhya Pradesh is covered under Desert Development Programme. But DPAP is being implmented in 40780 Sq. Kms. areas of Madhya Pradesh.

The following are details of amount allowances and uttlised during the last three years.

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Year | Allocation | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|
| 1986-87 | 735.00 | 723.67 |
| 1987-88 | 735.00 | 691.71 |
| 1988-89 | 809.00 | 726.98 |